

REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL-NOVEMBER 25, 2002

The regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council was called to order by Mayor Elizabeth Paterson at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Bellm, Haddad(arrived at 7:03) Hawkins, Holinko, Paterson, Rosen, Schaefer, Martin(arrived at 7:04), Thorkelson

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Hawkins moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to approve the minutes as presented of November 12, 2002.

So passed unanimously.

III. PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

1. Transportation Enhancement Proposals

Mr. Lon Hultgren, Public Works Director, discussed the four applications for transportation enhancement funds.

Streetscape extension and walkway improvements, Mansfield Center and North Eagleville Road west of UConn. This would extend the walkway and streetscape from its current northerly end at the 195/89 intersection along Route 89 to the Mansfield Library.

Eastbrook Mall Area Streetscape and Pedestrian Improvements. This would enhance pedestrian safety and the aesthetics of the East Brook Mall commercial area along Route 195 in southern Mansfield. This would include a new pedestrian walkway along the eastern side of Route 195 to extend safe pedestrian access to existing commercial uses.

Four Corners/Entrance to Mansfield. This project would be comprised of an extension of the bicycle/pedestrian path northeast about 3/8 mile to the commercial area on Rt. 195.

Downtown Streetscape and Pedestrian improvements. This would enhance the streetscape on Route 195 between Dog Lane and Liberty Bank.

Question was asked by JC Martin, Council member, as to cost of maintaining these improvements once they are installed. Mr. Hultgren will get the costs for the council.

No comments from the public.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Carolyn Burke, 97 Knowlton Hill Road, spoke in favor to change the sign regulations in the town parks to accommodate business sponsorship with banners.

Joe Cary, 96 Mt. Hope Road, presented the Council with a petition from area property owners requesting the Town Council reconsider its opinion in favor of the DOT project because of the negative effect the project would have on the road's character. They asked that the road be allowed to remain as it is, without further structural changes.

V. OLD BUSINESS

2. Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) for Graduate Student Apartments and Downtown Master Plan Projects.

Mr. Greg Padick, Town Planner spoke on the draft letter concerning the Environmental Impact Evaluation of the University of Connecticut Graduate Student Apartments/Downtown Mansfield Master Plan Project. To help ensure acceptable impacts, it is essential that comprehensive regulatory standards and approval processes be incorporated into the Municipal Development Plan for the Downtown Project. Another concern is that the downtown surface and groundwater systems not be impacted and that Town officials and the public be given future opportunities to review and comment on these designs.

Mr. Thorkelson moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to authorize the Mayor on behalf of the Town Council to endorse staff's proposed comments concerning the Environmental Impact Evaluation for the Graduate Student Apartments and Downtown Master Plan Projects, and to submit the proposed comments to the Planning and Zoning Commission for its potential co-endorsement.

Council wanted this amended to include a line under #4 "To help reduce vehicular traffic, it is recommended that University officials resume funding support for the Windham Region Transit District's Storrs/Willimantic pre-paid fare program."

Amended motion so passed unanimously.

3. Business Sponsorship and Commercial Advertising in Town Parks

Mr. Bellm moved and Mr. Thorkelson seconded to instruct the Town Manager to develop amendments on the proposal regarding event signs on the condition that the aforementioned sign/banners be in place only during the time of the event.

So passed. Mr. Rosen voted no.

4. Rte 89/Mt. Hope Rd. Intersection

No action taken.

5. Community Center Staffing Proposal

Mr. Curt Vincente, Director of Parks and Recreation, introduced Mr. Cliff Emery, Managing Director of Enterprise Group, Inc. Integrated Marketing consultants. He is

working on a marketing plan of development for the Community Center. The company has completed its data collection and has held focus group of both residents and non-residents. There has been a very positive response regarding the Community Center.

Mr. Bellm moved and Mr. Thorkelson seconded to postpone any decision on the proposed staffing for the Community Center until December 9, 2002.

So passed unanimously.

6. University Spring Weekend

There is a Task Force being established at the University of Connecticut to address such issues as alcohol, drugs, stress management and others. The Town will have a representative on the Task Force.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

7. Acceptance of Hawthorne Road

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Haddad seconded to refer the proposed acceptance of Hawthorne Road in Mansfield to the Planning and Zoning Commission for review pursuant to Section 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

So passed unanimously.

8. 2003 Schedule of Regular Town Council Meetings

Mr. Thorkelson moved and Mr. Holinko seconded to approve the proposed 2003 schedule of regular meetings of the Mansfield Town Council, as presented by the Town Clerk in her memorandum dated November 2002.

So passed unanimously.

9. December 23, 2002 Regular Town Council Meeting

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Haddad seconded to cancel the December 23, 2002 regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council.

So passed unanimously.

10. Financial Statements Dated September 30, 2002

Mr. Schaefer, chair of Finance Committee moved that the Financial Statements be referred to the Finance Committee.

So passed unanimously.

11. WRTD Prepaid Fare Program

No action taken.

12. Pine trees in Vicinity of Poultry Barns at Horsebarn Hill

Mr. Bellm moved and Mr. Holinko seconded that the Town Manager be authorized to write a letter to the University of Connecticut asking that the pines in the vicinity of the poultry barns at horsebarn hill be moved so as not to obstruct the view.

Mr. Martin and Mr. Bellm voted in favor
Mr. Schaefer, Ms. Paterson, Mr. Haddad, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Rosen, Mr. Holinko voted against
Mr. Thorkelson abstained

Motion failed.

VII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

VIII. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

VIII. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor reported that the Chief of the Ashford Fire Department had a massive heart attack and died following a fire in Ashford. The Mansfield Fire Department assisted the Ashford department by covering for the company so that all members wishing to attend the funeral services could attend. The thoughtfulness of the Mansfield's Fire Department was greatly appreciated.

The Mayor received a letter of appreciation from Cecile Marshall mother of James Marshall. Mrs. Marshall greatly appreciated the proclamation presented by the Council.

Hartford Distributors is running a course at the University on "Street Smart"

IX. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

The Town will be closing on the Fesik property tomorrow.

The Town has been notified that DEP is honoring Mansfield as one of the 10 communities being honored for the Town's recycling program.

Kevin Grunwold will be the new Director of Social Services beginning December 9th. At 6:30 p.m. there will be a reception for him prior to the Town Council meeting.

The University consulting group has put out the final plan for the cleanup of the landfill. Two outreach events are tentatively set for Jan 25 at the Bishop Center from 10-3 and Tuesday, February 25 at 7:00 p.m.

The Town Manager has been appointed to a blue ribbon committee for the state on the property tax burden.

The Town Manager attended the rededication of the Wilbur Cross Building. The Mayor did an excellent presentation at the event.

There will be a Special Meeting of the Town Council on Dec. 14 9-12 noon at the Senior Center.

The Town Manager handed out an article on the State budget.

X. FUTURE AGENDAS

Mr. Thorkelson requested that the USA Patriot Act be placed on a future agenda.

XI. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

- 13. Emergency Services Operations and Management Improvement Project-Revised Action Plan
- 14. Resident Comments re: Commercial Advertising in Town Parks
- 15. Tri-Town Youth Football and Cheerleading Association Petition Concerning Banner Sponsorship Program
- 16. UConn Students Enrolled at Storrs 1985-2002
- 17. CTNow.com re: State Lawmakers Face an Ugly and Growing Budget Mess
- 18. Article from Manchester Journal Inquirer re: State Budget
- 19. State Department of Public Health re: Estimated Populations in Connecticut as of July 1, 2002
- 20. State Board of Education "The Board Report"
- 21. Resident Comments re: Route 89/Mt. Hope Bridge
- 22. DEP re: Response to Mansfield Conservation Commission Subcommittee Report
- 23. M. Berliner re: Meeting with State Legislators
- 24. M. Berliner re: Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP)
- 25. R. Miller re: Invitation to Serve on Technical Advisory Group

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Not needed.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:35 p.m. Mr. Martin moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to adjourn the meeting.

So passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Joan E. Gerdson, Town Clerk